

Logan wonders if local wind could provide electricity

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LOGAN, **Utah** (AP) - The city wants to know if there's enough wind around town to produce electricity.

"Maybe not at first, but over the long term, wind projects are a lower-cost form of energy. It allows us to extend our precious petroleum into the future," said Tracy Livingston, chief executive of Wasatch Wind.

He spoke to the Municipal Council on Tuesday as part of a series of workshops aimed at reducing Logan's consumption of fossil fuels.

City-owned Logan Light and Power has conducted some tests near Cutler Dam. Director Jay Larsen said the city would benefit from additional studies.

"The site I tested didn't really produce a favorable wind result. But I didn't expand the test to include other sites," he said.

If the city decides to test other sites, gathering wind data could take up to two years at a cost as high as \$20,000 per location, Livingston said.

A site would have to average 16 mph winds over a year to be economically viable, he said.

Livingston, whose company is building a \$28 million wind farm at the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon in Utah County, said predicting future wind speeds can be tricky but canyon sites usually are consistent.

Council Chairman Steve Taylor said the city could apply for grants to study sites or pay out of pocket in a search for the "best wind for our buck."

Separately, Utah State University in Logan is collecting data near the school's power station to determine if there's enough wind from Logan Canyon to make electricity. The study could last a year.

"The cost of a wind project is a capital cost. The fuel is free," Livingston said. "The only cost escalator is maintenance."

Information from: The Herald Journal, <http://www.hjnews.com>